

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P049X1WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below.</small>	
International application No. PCT/US2006/005685	International filing date (day/month/year) 15/02/2006	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 22/02/2005
Applicant IGT		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the title,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 3 i
☒ as suggested by the applicant
☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention
b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/005685

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. G07F17/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G07F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02/24288 A (INTERNATIONAL GAME TECHNOLOGY) 28 March 2002 (2002-03-28) abstract page 1, line 10 - page 2, line 4 page 6, line 6 - line 18 page 8, line 5 - line 11 page 16, line 1 - page 17, line 3 -----	1-42

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 June 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/06/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Verhoef, P

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/005685

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0224288	A	28-03-2002	AU	9089001 A	02-04-2002
			US	6942574 B1	13-09-2005
			US	2005096125 A1	05-05-2005
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005685

International filing date (day/month/year)
15.02.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.02.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. G07F17/32

Applicant
IGT

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:

Date of completion of
this opinion

Authorized Officer



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Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Verhoef, P

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4235



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005685

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material:

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material:

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing:

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005685

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-42
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-42
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-42
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Available state of the art

The following document, D1, may be referred to in this communication; the notation below will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: WO 02/24288 A (INTERNATIONAL GAME TECHNOLOGY) 28 March 2002 (2002-03-28)

2. Inventive step – Articles 33(1) and (3) PCT

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of claims 1 - 42 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

2.1 The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject matter of claim 1, and discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A gaming machine comprising a master gaming controller (please cf. page 1, line 24), an input mechanism for receiving cash (please cf. page 1, line 27), an output mechanism for outputting cash (please cf. page 2, line 3) and a display (please cf. page 1, line 10 - 12; see also page 6, lines 6 - 18, where is discloses that a gaming machine can have a first and a second display). These features are however also considered implicit to a gaming machine. Futhermore, document D1 discloses that the gaming machine is networked and that all kind of personalized messages, or events of interest to the player may be displayed on that gaming machine (please cf. page 16, line 1 - page 17, line 3).

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known device in that:

'that a player is not directed to a certain location'.

This is however related to instructions for the human mind (mental steps). They are addressed to human beings, who implement them through merely intellectual activity. These instructions lack any technical character and can therefore not constitute a basis for an inventive step. In **T0641/00 (OJ EPO, 2003, 352)** the board concluded that "...where a feature cannot be considered as contributing to the solution of any technical problem by providing a technical effect it has no significance for the purpose of assessing inventive step." (emphasis added).

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore not inventive as is required by the Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT.

- 2.2 The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject matter of the corresponding independent method claims 29, which therefore is also considered not inventive.
- 2.3 The dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, see document D1 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OF THE PATENT COOPERATION
TREATY)
(PCT Rule 44bis.1(c))

To:

OLYNICK, David, P.
Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP
P.o. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Date of mailing (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07 September 2007 (07.09.2007)			IMPORTANT NOTICE
Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P049X1WO			
International application No. PCT/US2006/005685	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15 February 2006 (15.02.2006)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22 February 2005 (22.02.2005)	
Applicant IGT et al			

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)



The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Beate Giffo-Schmitt

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P049X1WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/US2006/005685	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15 February 2006 (15.02.2006)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22 February 2005 (22.02.2005)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant IGT		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Date of issuance of this report 28 August 2007 (28.08.2007) Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Beate Giffo-Schmitt</div> e-mail: pt03.pct@wipo.int
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005685

International filing date (day/month/year)
15.02.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.02.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. G07F17/32

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For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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Date of completion of
this opinion

See form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005685

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

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 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/005685

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-42
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-42
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-42
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known device in that:

'that a player is not directed to a certain location'.

This is however related to instructions for the human mind (mental steps). They are addressed to human beings, who implement them through merely intellectual activity. These instructions lack any technical character and can therefore not constitute a basis for an inventive step. In **T0641/00 (OJ EPO, 2003, 352)** the board concluded that "...where a feature cannot be considered as contributing to the solution of any technical problem by providing a technical effect it has no significance for the purpose of assessing inventive step." (emphasis added).

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- 2.2 The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject matter of the corresponding independent method claims 29, which therefore is also considered not inventive.
- 2.3 The dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, see document D1 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.